EDITORIAL NOTES.

What initial letters ought a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to affix to his name as indicative of his degree? It might be thought that such a question was superfluous and that there could be no shadow of doubt as to the exact letters required. We find, however, that rather a large number of the profession are not content with M.R.C.V.S., but add the letters E or L. It is surely well enough known that there is only one degree-granting body, and although, for convenience, it examines candidates in London and Edinburgh, the examinations are identical, as also are the examiners. When the students of the Scotch Schools were examined by a Board distinct from that which examined in London, there was perhaps some little excuse for the additional letters. Each group of men probably fancied the indication of their place of examination carried with it some suggestion of superiority. Each thought the examination he had passed a much more trying ordeal than that through which the other passed. No such idea can now exist, and the sooner the use of unmeaning letters is discarded the better. There is much confusion in the public mind as to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and its relation to the Veterinary Colleges. Nearly every one fancies our degree is granted by the teaching schools, and this error derives some justification from the practice of men adding E or L to their only proper title. There is only one correct abbreviation of title, i.e., M.R.C.V.S., and every addition to it is a gratuitous assumption, unrecognised by law, and opposed to good taste if not to common sense.

We have often thought that consultations are insufficiently appreciated by the veterinary practitioner. That "two heads are better than one" is undoubedly true, and many of us must remember cases in which our diagnosis has been rectified or assisted by a friend possessing no greater expertness than ourselves. It must, indeed, be a poor "second opinion" that gives no assistance, and we venture to assert that in all but very rare cases a consultation is beneficial to the patient, and therefore to the client. Properly conducted a consultation should also be of benefit to the practitioners engaged—enabling each to test his observations on the clinical case before him by the light of the experience of the other. From a scientific point of view consultations are altogether advantageous, but their business aspect does present some difficulties, if we may not even call them disadvantages. The man called in to give the "second opinion" too often fancies he is sent for as a *superior* individual to do something the other man has failed to accomplish. Especially is this noticeable when young men seek the assistance of older, and too often receive in return a correction of their diagnosis, or reversal of their treatment, given in a tone of patronising superiority, which as likely as not simply covers gross ignorance. Worse than this even is the case when the consultation is followed by the second man obtaining charge of the patient and superseding the practitioner who advised his being called in. Of course we do not allude to those cases in which the owner of an animal being dissatisfied with his regular attendant obtains the services of another. Very disagreeable too is a consultation when the first practitioner is one of the dogmatic school, who thinks that "what he does not know, no one can tell him." When these disadvantages exist, suspicion arises in the minds of both practitioners, they act on the defensive and devote more intelligence to fencing with each other than to elucidating the disease or combining their efforts for the relief of the animal. If men would meet each other with a little more confidence, with no assumption of superiority, and with a full recognition of the fact that every man has some powers, either inherent or acquired, quite equal to our own, there would be an increase of consultations in practice, and a consequent increase of sound diagnosis and successful treatment.

When the value of an animal can be estimated merely by the price obtainable for its skin and carcase it is not likely to obtain much veterinary attention if sick or injured. This is the reason why the sheep and pig have not hitherto obtained the same attention as the horse and ox. Now, however, that pedigree animals represent a large investment of capital, their lives possess a greater value and their diseases deserve greater attention. Here and there are to be found veterinarians with special knowledge concerning the diseases of sheep, and pigs, and fowls, but our literature on the subject is very limited, and can only be made more extensive and valuable by the publication of individual observations. We should be thankful for some notes on this subject, and our contributors may rest assured that they cannot fail to be interesting to a very wide circle of readers.

ARTICLES AND CASES.

"Careful observation makes a skilful practitioner but his skill dies with him. By recording his observations he adds to the knowledge of his profession, and assists by his facts in building up the solid edifice of Pathological Science."

TUMOUR IN THE SPLEEN.—An Obscure Case

By C. S. Hunting, M.R.C.V.S., South Hetton.

A bay Clydesdale filly, 3 years old, had been running at grass for several weeks when, on July 7th, it was thought to be not looking quite so lively as usual, but not much notice was taken till the 9th, when veterinary aid was sought. The symptoms presented were fever and a little bronchitis. Next day the case assumed a more serious aspect—the pulse rose to 90, temperature to 105, and respiration was

accelerated. On the following day the pulse reached 110, temperature 106, and the respirations 40 to 50 per minute. The owner being anxious about her, I was consulted, and on examination came to the conclusion that the case was one of bronchitis, complicated with congestion of the lower portions of both lungs. Mustard had been applied to the wind-pipe and breast, but another blister was now placed on both sides. During the next two or three days the pulse and respirations varied in the most irregular manner—fluctuating to the extent of 20 a minute. The filly was kept in a shed, the body was clothed from head to foot, but during the whole week we had a nasty fog which we blamed for the irregularity and persistence of the case. The symptoms continued about the same until the 13th when they abated a little, and we became hopeful of a slow recovery. On the 16th, however, the symptoms again became aggravated, and death took place quietly on the 18th.

On making a post-mortem examination, we were surprised to find that in addition to congestion of the lower third of the lungs, and scarlet colouration of the trachea and larger bronchii, there was a large tumour in the spleen, the weight of which I estimated to be about five pounds, My confrère thought it belonged to the Lymphadinoma class, and we noticed that it was breaking up in the centre. The liver was also much enlarged and very pale in colour.

Now, I saw the filly four times and stayed with her a considerable time—from two to four hours on each occasion, but no sign of abdominal pain was detected by me or by her other veterinary attendant. Only once during her illness had she lain down and then she got up almost directly. I certainly never felt sure of our diagnosis, and confessed to the owner that I feared there was something more wrong that we could not diagnose, but what that something was I never could make out, so tried to believe the changeableness of the symptoms was due to the prevalence of fog.

Sundry questions suggest themselves to me—could the condition of spleen have arisen and developed in the ten days during which the illness lasted? If the disease of spleen were of longer standing, did the acute respiratory symptoms cause rapid development of the splenic tumour? Are there any group of symptoms or any diagnostic signs by which disease of spleen may be diagnosed? I much regret that the "Record" was not known to me at the time, as I should then have made notes of the case and also have availed myself of your pathological facilities for determining the exact nature of the disease in the spleen. I feel that the absence of any definite description of the morbid splenic condition spoils this note of an obscure case, but it may possibly be of sufficient interest to draw from others some observations of diseases of the spleen. I believe that in India this organ is not uncommonly the seat of pathological change, and perhaps some of the gentlemen of the army veterinary department may contribute from their experiences more definite signs which will assist us in arriving at correct diagnoses.

VETERINARY EDUCATION AND EXAMINATIONS.

By J. Donald, F.R.C.V.S., Wigton.

The education of the veterinary aspirant in a great measure depends upon the examinations he is required to pass before receiving his diploma, and as this diploma is granted by the R.C.V.S., it follows that that body is, in the main, really responsible for the limits of his education. It may, I think, be fairly assumed that the Colleges will teach up to the standard of the examinations; and if their teaching exceed the requirements of the diploma granting body and be more adapted to the future requirements of veterinary surgeons, a majority of their students will be content to acquire sufficient knowledge of the kind required to pass the necessary ordeal of the exam. How far the recent reforms or alterations made by the Council of the R.C.V.S. in their examinations are desirable may be the subject of much difference of opinion, and I think the present regulations a fair subject for criticism. Taking the different examinations in order as at present arranged, I would offer a few remarks thereon.

The matriculatory examination should embrace a more extended general education than at present, and be more strictly conducted. There is a laxity in the superintendence of this examination which should no longer be allowed to exist. It should comprise the same subjects for all colleges, and the standard be fixed by the Royal College. The writing of the answers should be superintended by some responsible person appointed by them. The answers should be examined by some independent authority chosen by the Council, on the same principle as that adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society. The Council have a rule giving them some such power, but whether they have exercised it seems doubtful.

The first professional, or A examination. The translation of osteology and syndesmology from the second to the first year I regard as a step in the right direction; it relieves the second year's work so as to allow the student time to obtain a better knowledge of anatomy during the second period of study, which under the old regulations did not obtain.

Chemistry. The students' knowledge of this subject should mainly be in the direction of its relation to medicine and pharmacy, which would greatly increase the usefulness of this science to the profession, while it would in no way diminish the value of chemistry as an instrument of mental culture. The requirements of the existing regulations are far too general and superficial, without due regard to the further and future requirements and application of the students' knowledge to daily practice. The study of practical chemistry should be compulsory, and form a separate subject of examination in its application to medicine, such as the quantitative analysis of the more important chemicals used in medicine, with the detection of their more common impurities: the use of volumetric

solutions in the estimation of pharmacopæal preparations, and the chemical examination of blood, wine. etc.

Botany as a special subject should be deleted from the curriculum ; it is a waste of the students' time as at present taught, and almost worthless to him in after life. That all veterinary surgeons should be *practically* acquainted with poisonous, medicinal, and food plants is most desirable—if not essential—no one will deny ; but I hold that these could be more conveniently and successfully taught in conjunction with Materia Medica and Dietetics, which should be introduced into the first examination.

The Second professional, or B examination. The subjects of this examination are the proper ones in their proper place, and I believe are well taught at all the schools. The diploma granting body, however, should be careful to test and see that surgical and regional anatomy has been sufficiently studied.

The final, or C examination. This is by far the most important so far as the future usefulness of a veterinary surgeon is concerned, and here we are confronted by a state of matters positively disgraceful to any licensing body. At the first table is morbid anatomy and pathology with two examiners, which I regard as a good arrangement; but at the second table, which comprises five of the most important subjects in the whole curriculum, viz., equine medicine, surgery, therapeutics, materia medica, and toxicology, two examiners have to ascertain the student's knowledge of these *five* important subjects in *twenty minutes*, i.e., an average of *four minutes for each subject*; while for botany twenty minutes with two examiners are allowed. Perhaps our Council entertain the opinion that a string of botanical terms is five times more important to a V.S. than these branches of the art, which will be required of him in almost every day of his future practice. The diseases of the other domestic animals at table three are similarly provided for. The Council have either sadly over-rated the ability of any human power to test a student's knowledge, or they are content with a very low standard in these branches of veterinary education, if they consider an average of four minutes sufficient for their examiners to certify to the British Public that the student is fully qualified to practice: indeed, I cannot understand how any gentleman can conscientiously undertake the duty, and subscribe his name to their diploma, unless he places the greatest possible confidence and reliance upon the test examination of the colleges. Therapeutics, compounding and administration of medicines are all sadly neglected by our body corporate. I hold the opinion that no man should receive his diploma until he can properly construct a prescription, compound and administer the same. Speaking generally, veterinary surgeons possess a lamentable lack of this class of knowledge, a fact which is abundantly testified to by the eagerness with which they take up the many nostrums and ready made physic which are now so abundantly offered by the wholesale druggists, the demand has no doubt given rise to their existence, and for this the R.C.V.S. is in some measure responsible for not having made this a compulsory subject in their examination. There are many other points upon which I might dwell, but for the present I will close.

CASES IN CANINE PRACTICE.

By E. Wallis Hoare, M.R.C.V.S., Cork.

(1) *Carcinoma in the Dog.*—The subject was a Dachshund dog, aged, the property of an officer. When first seen, no very definite history of the case could be obtained. The animal had been gradually appearing dull, with loss of appetite, occasional attacks of vomiting, and disinclination to move in any way.

On examination the following symptoms were presented :—Abdominal pain, intermittent in character, constant vomiting, especially violent if any food was partaken of ; constipation of the bowels, abdomen greatly enlarged, especially on the right side, body much emaciated, a desire to be on the left side, no symptoms of jaundice nor of ascites present, enlargement of the right side, tender on pressure.

These symptoms pointed to some affection of the liver, and from the weak condition of the patient, the difficulty of respiration, and the acute vomiting, on unfavourable prognosis was given

The treatment consisted of anodynes to relieve the severe pain, oleaginous laxatives and enemas to act on the bowels, and stimulants to keep up the patient's strength. Externally, the application of hot fomentations to the abdomen.

The animal lived for five days and gradually became weaker, and died in a partly comatose condition.

A post-mortem examination showed the liver enormously enlarged ; the surface of the gland was covered with nodules varying in size, some of these had undergone degeneration and appeared like abscesses. From the appearance of the organ it seemed surprising how it could have performed its functions in any way. The spleen was covered by white nodules, much firmer than those on the liver, the mesenteric glands were also affected.

A microscopical examination showed the morbid growths to be scirrhus cancer.

(2) *Foreign Body in Duodenum.*—The subject was a well-bred setter dog, the winner of many prizes both in Ireland and England.

His owner noticed him dull and showing symptoms of abdominal pain, and obstruction of the intestines. Like a great many dog fanciers, this gentleman imagined that the affection was to be overcome by the administration of drastic purgatives, and had prescribed a fair amount of such medicines, for the unfortunate patient, before sending for me.

The result can be easily imagined—when I saw the animal it was so weak from continual pain for about eight hours, that an unfavourable prognosis was at once given.

The treatment consisted of the administration of an oleaginous laxative, and doses of R. opii to

relieve the intense pain, with occasional stimulants. Externally, hot stupes to the abdomen, and the administration of occasional enemas. The animal died early next morning.

A post-mortem examination revealed the presence of half a large-sized cork firmly embedded in the lower portion of the duodenum; the intestine, anterior and posterior to the foreign body, was both inflamed, and distended with gas.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

By Morris Grant Byerley, M.R.C.V.S.

The following simple case demonstrates how a morbid condition may be a cause of serious or even fatal disturbance, whilst itself only an effect of a previous systemic derangement.

A rectal concretion, is the morbid condition, which gives rise to general disturbance, whilst *it* is directly traceable to an atonic condition of the intestine dependent on general anæmia.

On January 10th, professional advice was sought respecting an aged brown pony, which had fallen down while on a journey, the only palpable injuries received being slight abrasions of both knees.

He had been losing flesh for some time; and his aptitude for performing his daily work had gradually left him. When examined he presented an emaciated appearance; and, owing to a deficiency of subcutaneous adipose tissue and defective secretion of the skin-glands, a hide-bound condition existed. He moved very stiffly, "all of a piece," if it may be so expressed. This mode of gait could not be attributed entirely to the recent accident, since the driver had noticed something similar prior to its occurrence. During progression, the tail was elevated and exhibited a peculiar quivering movement, due undoubtedly to nervous derangement. The pulse numbered 54 per minute, was feeble and irregularly intermittent. The visible mucous membranes were pale in character, with the exception of the Schneiderian, which possessed a bluish tint. The limbs were slightly anasarcous, and altogether a marked case of anæmia was patent to the examiner.

For a couple of days the pony remained dull and "off feed," and frequently fell down in the stable. Sometimes he resumed the standing posture without assistance; sometimes he required aid to rise.

There being no improvement manifest and no fæces having been passed, a rectal examination was carried out. Directly an attempt was made to introduce the hand into the rectum, an obstruction was encountered completely obstructing and distending the gut. It was extremely hard in consistence, and, when first felt, did not appear to have the character of dung. With considerable difficulty, it was dislodged and found to be a solid fæcal mass weighing several pounds. Its blood-stained condition indicated that it had induced hæmorrhage from the mucous membrane of the rectum. It is scarcely conceivable that this concretion, owing to its size, shape and density, could have been expelled by the natural efforts of the animal. After the removal of this impaction, the pony never fell down again; he soon regained his appetite, and under suitable treatment, rapidly made a good recovery.

Now, the constipation was unquestionably brought about through debility of the intestine caused by anæmia, and, therefore, was simply an effect of such condition. But had that symptom not been properly attended to in the first place, it may be reasonably concluded that treatment of the case could not have been brought to a successful issue; for, owing to continued pressure on the gut, degenerative changes might have resulted, and have led to rupture of the rectum and death from exhaustion.

Query—Was the quivering of the tail due to the nervous irritation caused by the fæcal concretion?

SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF SAVARY'S LIQUID EXTRACT OF MUSTARD.

By F.R.C.V.S.

Some months ago, a notice appeared in the Veterinary Journal upon this subject, by Mr. Nunn.

It is not always pleasant to record failures, though it is in reality, often of greater importance to do so than to publish successes, unless indeed, one has been able to diagnose the presence of a tumefied pineal gland during life, or performed some equally clever feat.

Several months before Mr. Nunn adopted M. Durien's suggestion, I had done so, and I found that, as regards the first results it was fairly successful. However, a mild cantharides blister would have acted better. But I am sorry to say that the secondary results were disastrous, because each case gave rise to abscesses or sphacelus, followed by cartilaginous thickening, necessitating repeated dissection. In a word, the cases were on hand for over two months. Probably my modus operandi was wrong, but I very carefully followed the directions in the French Journal. If not too late, I would recommend gentlemen about to try this method to select a horse belonging to a very patient and good-tempered client. It would be pleasanter, perhaps in the end. I performed eight injections, and each was followed by bad results. I can truthfully assert that neither the remarks of the owners, nor the comments of my professional friends, have brought me any comfort.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS.

The following Questions were set at the Fellowship Examination, on July 13th, 1888. (*Examiners;* Dr. Fleming, and Messrs. Roalfe Cox, and Duguid).

COMPARATIVE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

1. Give a brief outline of the arrangement of the Respiratory Apparatus in mammals, birds, reptiles, and fishes.

2. Name the glands connected with the process of digestion in Herbivorous Animals, and state what effect the secretion of each has on the constituents of the food.

3. State briefly the differences between the arrangement of the Reproductive Organs in mammals and birds.

THERAPEUTICS.

1. What are the physiological actions of Oil of Turpentine, Camphor, and Belladonna, when given in medicinal doses; state the principal uses of these medicines in veterinary practice.

VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

1. Enumerate the diseases of animals which are known to be communicable to man, and describe in each instance the usual channel of transmission of the contagion.

2. Describe the appearance of a Horse under each of the following conditions: *(a)* Complete Paralysis of the lower lip; *(b)* Paralysis on one side of the face, affecting the lips, nostril, and ear, and state which nerves are involved.

3. Describe the disordered conditions of the Blood-vessels which may occasion lameness in the horse, also the diagnostic character of the lameness.

4. In disease of the foot, with lameness in the horse, describe the several conditions affording promise of useful result from Neurotomy, also the contra-indications to the expediency of the operation.

PATHOLOGY.

1. Describe the differences between Anthrax and Black Quarter, so far as their nature, causes, and lesions are concerned.

2. Describe the nature and morbid anatomy of Actinomycosis.

SANITARY SCIENCE.

1. Enumerate the measures necessary for the suppression of Bovine Contagious Pleuro-pneumonia, and keeping a country free from it.

2. Describe the causes which tend to the extension of Glanders, Anthrax, and Rabies.

EXTRACTS.

From Address to the Biological Section of the British Association.

By W. T. THISELTON-DYER, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.S.

It was, of course, clear that contagion must be due to the communication of infectious particles or contagia. These contagia, although at the time no one had seen them, Henle (as early as 1840) pointed out, "have the power, possessed, as far as we know, by living creatures only, of growing under favourable conditions, and of multiplying at the expense of some other substance than their own, and therefore of assimilating that substance." Henle enforced his view by comparison with the theory of fermentation which had then been promulgated by Schwann. But for many years his views found no favour. Botanists, however, as in so many other cases, struck on the right path, and from about the year 1850 steady progress, in which De Bary himself took a leading part, was made in showing that most of the diseases of plants are due to parasitic infection. The reason of this success was obvious: the structure of plants make them more accessible to research, and the invading parasites are larger than animal contagia. On the animal side all real progress dates from about 1860, when Pasteur, having established Schwann's theory of fermentation on an impregnable basis, took up Henle's theory of living contagia.

The only risk now is that we may get on too fast. To put the true theory of any one contagious disease on as firm a basis as that of alcoholic fermentation is no easy matter to accomplish. But I believe that this is, notwithstanding a flood of facile speculation and imperfect research, slowly being done.

There are two tracts in the body which are obviously accessible to such minute organisms as bacteria and favourable for their development. These are the alimentary canal and the blood. In case of the former there is evidence that every one of us possesses quite a little flora of varied forms and species. They seem for the most part, in health, to be comparatively innocuous; indeed, it is believed that they are ancillary to and aid digestion. But it is easy to see that other kinds may be introduced, or those already present may be called into abnormal activity, and fermentative processes may be set up of a very inconvenient kind. These may result in mere digestive disorder or in the production of some of those poisonous derivatives of proteids of which I have spoken, the effect of which upon the organism of the part may be most disastrous.

The access of bacteria to the blood is a far more serious matter. They produce phenomena the obvious analogy of which to fermentative processes has led to the resulting diseases being called zymotic. Take, for example, the disease known as "relapsing fever." This is contagious. After a period of incubation violent fever sets in, which lasts for something less than a week, is then followed by a period of absence, to be again followed in succession by one or more similar attacks, which ultimately cease. Now you will observe that the analogy to a fermentative process is very close. The period of incubation is the necessary interval between the introduction of the germ and its vegetative multiplication in sufficient numbers to appreciably affect the total volume of the blood. The rise in temperature and the limited duration of the attack are equally, as we have seen, characteristic of fermentative processes, while the bodily exhaustion which always follows fever is the obvious result of the dissipation by the ferment organisms of nutritive matter destined for the repair of tissue waste. During the presence of this fever there is present in the blood an organism, *Spirochæte Obermeieri*, so named after its discoverer. This disappears when the fever subsides. It is found that if other individuals are inoculated with

blood taken from patients during the fever attack, the disease is communicated, but that is not the case if the inoculation is made during the period of freedom. The evidence then seems clear that this disease is due to a definite organism. The interesting point, however, arises, why does the fever recur? and why eventually cease? The analogy of fermentation leads to the hypothesis that, as in the case of yeast, the products of its action inhibit after a time the further activity of the *Spirochæte*. The inhibiting substance is, no doubt, eventually removed partially from the blood by its normal processes of depuration, and the surviving individuals of *Spirochæte* can then continue their activity, as in lactic fermentation. With regard to the final cessation of the disease, there are facts which may lead one to suppose that in this, as in other cases, sufficient of the inhibiting substance ultimately remains in the organism to protect it against any further outbreak of activity on the part of the *Spirochæte*.

Here we have an example of a disease which, though having a well-marked zymotic character, is comparatively harmless. In anthrax, which is known to be due to *Bacillus subtilis*, we have one which is, on the contrary, extremely fatal. I need not enter into the details. It is sufficient to say that there is reason to believe that the *Bacillus* produces, as one of those by-products of protoplasmic destruction to which I have already alluded, a most virulent poison. But the remarkable thing is that this *Bacillus*, which can be cultivated externally to the body, if kept at a heightened temperature, can be attenuated in its virulence. It drops, in fact, the excretion of the poison. It is then found that if injected into the blood it does no mischief, and what is more extraordinary, if the *Bacillus* in its most lethal form is subsequently introduced, it too has lost its power. The explanation of the immunity in this case is entirely different to that which was suggested by a consideration of the facts of relapsing fever. The researches of Metschnikoff have led to the hypothesis that in the present case the white-blood corpuscles destroy the *Bacillus*. When they first come into contact with these in their virulent form they are unable to touch them. But if they have been educated by first having presented to them the attenuated form they find no difficulty in grappling with the malignant. This is a very remarkable view. I should not have put it before you had there not been solid reasons for regarding the idea of the education of protoplasm with scientific respect. The plasmodia of the myxomycetes, which consist of naked protoplasm, are known to become habituated to food which they at first reject, and the researches of Beyerinck on the disease known as "gumming" in plants have apparently shown that healthy cells may be taught, as it were, to produce a ferment which otherwise they would not excrete.

If Metschnikoff's theory be true we have a rational explanation of vaccination and of preventative inoculation generally. It is probably, however, not the only explanation. And the theory of the inhibitive action upon itself of the products of the ferment-organism's own activity is still being made the basis of experiment. In fact, the most recent results point to the possibility of obtaining protection by injecting into the blood substances artificially obtained, entirely independent of the organisms whose development they inhibit.—*Scientific News.*

WANTED—A HORSE INSTITUTE.

I believe that we possess in the United Kingdom the finest horses and the finest horsemen in the world, but I am sure that both are capable of great improvement, and that other nations are rapidly depriving us of the marked superiority which once was ours. We are a horse-loving nation, but, whether we view "the noble animal" as an article of luxury or as an instrument of motion, we cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that quite a fourth of his capabilities are wasted by mismanagement. Rule-of-thumb is the guiding power which directs his course from the cradle to the grave—or, perhaps I ought to say, from the paddock to the boiler. That this sort of guidance has been so good is high compliment to the practical genius of our people; but in equine as in other matters, it is easy to show that collective action guided by science as well as experience can greatly assist in perfecting the object acted upon.

Nothing nowadays—neither a politician, a horse, a machine, nor a trade—obtains impetus enough for a maximum of success unless backed by a special organ in the press or by an organised body, association, society, or, if you like, a caucus. An instrument of this kind is wanted for the horse. A walk through the late "Inventories" must surely have suggested this want to others as it did to me. Every group of objects nursed by a collective body was well represented, and in the Official Catalogue honoured by a short introductory essay. A few minor classes, such as children's toys and balloons, were not "introduced," amongst the slighted ones being "Group VI.—Road Carriages." Now Group VI. might have been better described "Things pertaining to horses," as it embraced carriages, harness, bits, saddles, shoes, clothing, &c. There was no influential body to look after the group, and it was treated accordingly. Not so with inorganic machines. Every detail of the manufacture and uses received methodical attention. One of the groups honoured with an introductory essay was, "Prime movers and means of distributing their power." Very interesting and very necessary, I allow; but it seems to be forgotten that the horse is the greatest "prime mover" in the world, and that the distribution of his power is left very much to itself, at any rate solely to the efforts of the individual owner, who may or may not be totally ignorant of the machine he employs. Nearly every article carried by railways or by ships has been or will be carried by horses.

Whilst every invention of the engineer is examined and discussed, modified and improved by

societies and associations, the horse is left without an organisation to interest itself in economically developing his ever-increasing utility.

Individual action has done much, but it cannot do what can be done by associated effort. The various uses of the horse place it on a different footing to other domestic animals. Booth, Collins, Bakewell, and others have done wonders for the ox and sheep, but these animals only require breeding and feeding. The horse affects much wider and diverse interests. Agriculture, sport, war and commerce are all vastly interested in his well-being and in his adaptability for the various parts to be played by him in these extensive spheres. It may be said that each of the departments is well capable of looking after its own interest, and that each has individuals, if not sections, whose duty it is to see to such matters. Granted that this is true, I submit that a body including representative men of special attainments in each section would, by comparing notes, throw light upon many points which are now in sad want of illumination. A wider and more comprehensive consideration of the animal in all its relations would result. The agriculturist and the soldier; the trainer of race-horses and the managers of tramway companies; the masters of hounds and the large carriers; the harness-maker and the veterinary-surgeon are all possessed of special knowledge which bears upon other matters not under their immediate notice, and all of which could surely be brought to bear for the mutual advantage of man and horse. The form and action of bits and bridles, the laws governing traction and draught—the mechanics of locomotion—are far from being thoroughly understood; and a combination of engineers, coach-builders, anatomists, and horsemen would be more likely to elucidate such matters than the most skilful specialists acting alone.

There are now societies doing good work; let them continue. They are few and small, mostly directing their energies to one special question. Some societies which may nominally claim to have an interest in these matters are really devoted more to the furtherance of objects in which the horse plays a part, than to the direct benefit of the animal itself. What I desiderate is an association which shall direct its efforts to the animal under all conditions; which shall help to diffuse more widely correct knowledge concerning it; which shall correct much existing error, and render the horse at once more useful, more valuable, and more economical to man. Such desirable objects, if attained, would save the horse much ill-usage and misery, whilst adding to its comfort and longevity. We call a horse old at eight, and as a fact that age is beyond the average of equine life. Really he ought not to be old till sixteen years of age. A horse at eight is analogous to a man at twenty. It is only ignorance and carelessness that permit our general management of the animal to use him up before he reaches maturity. The working life of a horse in towns averages about three years—it ought to average at least five.

Technical knowledge is now much insisted on. Drivers of engines, workers in cotton, wool, wood, &c., we are told, require special technical teaching; but the horse, a living, sentient being, is surrounded by a set of men whose ignorance is only equalled by their cunning, and no one ever dreams of suggesting that the want of technical knowledge in them is a loss to the country. Virgil said, "*Ne credite equi;*" but I say, "*Credite equi—ne credite equestri.*" What an opportunity has been lost by the inertness of the Farriers' Company of the City of London! Most of the City companies have done something for technical education. What has the Farriers' Company done? Absolutely nothing—except to supply two mounted men in the Lord Mayor's Show. Were the horse represented by an association having his welfare at heart, possibly some effort might be initiated. The care of the horse is to my mind at least as important as the care of ships and engines. It is indispensable to the trade and industry of the nation; it is a big factor in the formation of our national character; it is a prominent agent in our pleasures and amusements. Then why is it neglected? I may be told that it is not neglected—that, in fact, it has far too much attention devoted to it. Such a reply is only applicable to the treatment of the individual horse by the individual man. What I complain of is the neglect of the horse collectively—the want of means to collect, arrange and utilize all the scattered knowledge possessed by individuals.

We have an Iron and Steel Institute which devotes itself to facilitating and improving the production and manufacture of those materials. Art and science are represented in every department on the widest practical basis. Can we not have a Horse Institute to take an equally effective interest in the animal in all its phases and conditions? Scope for such an institute is boundless, and the practical good likely to result from it cannot be over-estimated. Such an association would embrace all manners of men. Representatives of agriculture, trade, sport, and war, might all co-operate to advance the interests of the animal, and thus reap a benefit which either singly could not hope for.

Just glance at a few of the subjects for such a body's consideration, and we shall see how vast the interests are which might be affected.

BREEDING.

Although of primary importance to the land-owner and farmer, affects all users of the animal. Some classes of horse we now import entirely, and many of the more useful kinds of light draught horse are becoming daily scarcer. Only two distinct breeds of horses exist in the kingdom: the racehorse and the carthorse. What prevents our having definite breeds of the intermediate kinds? We can breed cattle, sheep, pigs, and dogs to any form we wish, and very soon produce a strain capable of repeating itself with certainty. This, and this only, constitutes a breed, and it is attainable. Would it not be desirable to have a breed of horse which I cannot better describe than as "a thirteen-stone hunter," and also a breed suitable for commercial purposes such as the old Cleveland

bay, now, I fear, extinct?—the railway destroyed him, the tramway and omnibus should revive him. Then there are the questions of remounts for cavalry, Government breeding studs, and the use or abuse of Queen's plates, with many others which require most careful and comprehensive discussion by men of varied experience and attainments.

FEEDING.

This is another question not one horseman in a hundred understands even the rudiments of. That the cost of feeding should now vary so widely as from 9*s*. to 18*s*. per week per horse in the same town is a fact suggestive of gross waste or dreadful ignorance. That there are articles of feeding insufficiently used, that there are others too often used, and that the effects of different kinds of provender upon the animal are not understood, are simply truisms. Then we have the question of the preparation of food for horses, which opens up a most important economical line. The various methods of cooking and preserving grain, and their respective values are subjects about which little is known, but which may perhaps lead to economies unsuspected.

WORK.

That horse-power is improperly applied is in evidence every day. Distance, pace, and load are not considered in estimating a fair day's work for a horse, and the suitability of the animal for the circumstances is too often made subservient to other considerations. The individual loss is a national loss; and the economies to be effected in mines, on railways, on paved streets or country roads, in omnibuses, tramcars, cabs, carts, and carriages, mean additional percentage on dividends. The cabs and omnibuses of London alone require over twenty thousand horses to work them, and the average duration of these animals is under three years.

But the list of subjects that would repay consideration is too long to comment on. I will just mention the items of shoeing and disease, harness and vehicles, roadways and draught, and ask if there is not scope enough for the united exertions of a large representative association having at heart the interests of the horse in his relation to man.

The number of small societies limiting their action to some special kind of horse or some special branch of equine affairs cannot possibly do the good which, I take it, must proceed from the action of a Horse Institute, founded on the wide basis I have attempted to indicate. It must not be limited to amateurs, or partake of the nature of a club. It must embrace men of all sorts and conditions, providing only that they know something of the animal and are willing and able to impart their knowledge to others.

Such an association could meet once or twice a year in different parts of the kingdom, discuss papers, publish their transactions, offer prizes, form committees for experimental work, and in many other ways add greatly to the welfare and utility of the horse. It would be numerically strong, and thus the subscription need be but little.

Our importation of horses is yearly increasing. Some of our most luxurious carriages come from France. The best machine-made horse-shoe is American, and the best-made horse-nail comes from Norway and Sweden. Hungarians show us the way across country, and we have to go to Germany for the highest artistic equestrianism. This is not as it should be—nor as it used to be. We are not absolutely deteriorating, but other nations are advancing. We must drop our insular conceit, act together and make an effort. Of all efforts the most efficient is—collective.—*Baily's Magazine.*

THE AUSTRALIAN MAMMALS.

All the indigenous mammals of Australia are marsupials; that is, the female animals are furnished with a peculiar pouch, formed by a fold in the skin, in which they carry their young for a considerable time after birth, and in the walls of which the teats are situated. This structure is necessitated by the fact that these young, in many cases, are born while little more than mere embryos (the kangaroo itself is only an inch long at birth), so that protection during the early stages of their growth is absolutely essential, while at the same time they must be almost continually nourished by their mother's milk. Hence they are placed in the marsupial pouch as soon as they enter the world, and their they remain, it may be, for six or eight months, leaving it occasionally for a short time towards the end of that period, but always returning to it when danger threatens or hunger assails. And this structure it is which forms the distinguishing feature of the group.

Of the three animals which do not appear to possess it, and which are yet found in a wild state on the Australian continent, one—the dingo—has almost certainly been introduced from elsewhere, while the porcupine ant-eater and the duckbill are now admitted to constitute a "sub-order," traces of the marsupial structure being distinguishable when carefully looked for. In all others it is conspicuous enough, although not in every case sufficiently developed to serve as a receptacle for the young.

With the sole exception of the opossums, which are natives of the New World, these marsupial animals are strictly confined to Australia and the neighbouring islands. No marsupials are found in other parts of the world; no mammals belonging to other parts of the world are found in Australia. This, the smallest of the continents, has neither monkeys, bats, carnivora, insectivora, rodents, nor ungulates. Pachyderms are unknown; edentates do not exist. And yet representatives, so to speak, of most of these groups are found among the marsupials themselves, feeble imitations, as it were, of stronger species belonging to the higher divisions, so that the marsupial order forms a sort of epitome of Old and New World mammals upon a reduced scale, the resembiances being so perfect that they

cannot be overlooked, while the presence of the characteristic pouch debars us from referring any of the animals in question to the families to which otherwise they appear to belong.—*Scientific News.*

SARCOPTIC MANGE IN SHETLAND.

The Appendix to the Report of the Agricultural Department for 1887 contains an account of the measures adopted to eradicate an outbreak of parasitic disease affecting the ponies in Shetland.

As it illustrates the advantages and ultimate economy of energetic measures when dealing with contagious maladies, it is interesting.

When the outbreak was reported, it was said that the disease was spreading rapidly, a large number of ponies had died, many others had been rendered entirely unfit for work, and that in some of the Islands the epidemic had taken so serious a form that the extermination of the ponies seemed imminent. A Travelling Inspector was therefore despatched to the Shetlands to institute an enquiry as to the importance of the outbreak, and consult with the Local Authority as to the measures which should be taken to check and, if possible, eradicate the disease.

On inquiry it was ascertained that the outbreak was of so serious a nature as to render it advisable to grant very extensive powers to the Local Authority, and an order of Council was accordingly passed to enable the Local Authority to regulate the movement of ponies throughout the Islands, to require isolation of the affected animals, and to provide for the disinfection of places where the disease had existed. Later on, a further Order was passed, giving power to the Local Authority to direct the slaughter of ponies affected with Sarcoptic Mange, or those that had been in association with affected animals, and to pay compensation out of the local rates for the animals so slaughtered.

Under these powers, the Local Authority at once took active measures, with such good result, that by midsummer of the present year the disease, so far as was known, had been effectually stamped out.

The steps taken included the imposition of restrictions on movement in those neighbourhoods where the disease was known to exist. Animals in the early stages of the disease were placed under veterinary treatment, many being cured. In cases where the disease was far advanced and cure seemed impossible, the owners were persuaded to slaughter the animals on their own account, and in some instances, when the disease had been contracted by animals in situations where it was difficult or impossible to secure isolation, slaughter of the affected animals was ordered by the Local Authority, and compensation paid. Altogether 64 ponies were slaughtered by order of the Local Authority, the compensation for which amounted to £32. In addition to these precautions, buildings, posts, rails, and other things considered likely to hold infective matter were, as far as possible, disinfected, while ropes, headstalls, and harness were destroyed. All these precautions appear to have been vigorously enforced, and were necessary for the sake of example, offenders against the regulations were prosecuted and fined.

The results obtained from these measures were highly satisfactory. In the Island of Fetlar, where in 1886 the disease was working great havock, it has been completely eradicated; and although in a district where communication is so difficult and slow it might be hazardous to state that the disease is entirely extinct throughout the Islands, still, as no case has been reported since June 1887 up to the close of 1887, there seems good grounds for hoping that this may be the case.

When it is remembered that in many of the Islands of this group there are no means of conveying fuel and other necessities of life from one portion of an Island to another but on ponies' backs, great credit must be conceded alike to local officials charged with the enforcement of the restrictions, and to the inhabitants who submitted to them.

The expenses incurred, in addition to the £32 paid for compensation, as already stated, seem to have been of a trifling nature, the small force of constabulary maintained in the Islands having given gratuitous aid.

ANTHRAX IN MAN.

Anthrax may be communicated to man. This usually occurs through handling the carcases or remains of diseased animals.

In the course of the year it has come to the knowledge of the officials of this Department that five people have been infected in this manner. The first three cases were in connection with the large outbreak near Chelmsford, in which the veterinary surgeon who examined some of the carcases, and also the two men who cut up those sent to the knacker's yard, became infected and suffered severely; in fact, for some weeks the recovery of the veterinary surgeon seemed very doubtful, and the result was the loss of part of one hand.

In consequence of this transmission of the disease to the human subject, and the danger incurred by men handling the carcases of animals dead of anthrax, a notice drawing attention to this, and also giving instructions about the disposal and burial of carcases, was sent by the Agricultural Department to all Local Authorities.

Notwithstanding the publication of this notice the public generally do not seem aware of the danger, for at least five instances are mentioned by Inspectors of the discovery of the disease through carcases found in slaughter-houses being dressed for human food. Two of these cases were in Lincolnshire, two in the Isle of Ely, and one in Edinburgh.

The fourth case of transmission to man was that of a veterinary surgeon in one of the midland counties, who got infected through an abrasion on one of his fingers while making a post-mortem examination of a bullock found dead in a field. The timely amputation of the finger, at the patient's own

request, in this instance probably prevented the loss of the whole hand, or even more serious consequences.

The fifth case was that of a veterinary surgeon who made a post-mortem examination of several of the animals in the Nottingham outbreak above referred to, and got inoculated in the arm, and it was only by the early excision of the infected part that a serious and dangerous illness was prevented.

Appendix to Report of Agricultural Dept.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Reproduction of Rudimentary Toes in Greyhounds.

At the present writing, I have under my observation a fine, male, light clay-coloured, smooth haired greyhound, which at certain intervals well illustrates the reproduction of the rudimentary digits of its feet, after they have been accidentally amputated. To-day this dog has growing on the inner aspects of both its fore and hind feet, and situated some 9 centimetres above the soles, on each limb, a strong rudimentary toe. If we choose, say, this toe on the right hind foot as an example of them all, we find it to be loosely attached, rather more than a centimetre long to the base of the claw, which latter is large and strong, powerfully curved, and fully as big as any of the claws on the foot phalanges. I further find that this toe has a well-marked pad on its under side, but careful examination fails to detect any bone in the proximal joint, from which I also infer that the ungual phalanx likewise lacks one, though this is not so easily determined without cutting through the horny theca forming the claw. About four months ago this dog was coursing hares over the prairie of this region, which chances to be overgrown with a stiff growth of sage-brush, about 2 feet to 3 feet high. The wiry stems of this plant, as the dog bounded among them, snipped off all four of these rudimentary digits, close down to the leg in each case, as nicely as though it had been done with a knife, leaving linear wounds about half a centimetre long. Now, instead of the lips of these wounds healing across, as one would naturally suppose they would, they immediately form the basis, in each case, for the growth of another rudimentary clawed toe, fully as perfect as the one which originally sprang from the same site. These subsequent growths take about three months to attain their full size again, when they are likely to be removed by a similar process, and once more grow out as before, and so on indefinitely.

R. W. Shufeldt.

Fort Wingate, New Mexico, March 28.

[This letter appeared in "*Nature*," and whilst accepting the statement of fact, we may mention that similar accidents to claws often occur here. In many breeds of dogs dew-claws are removed with scissors, but never before did we hear of any reproduction.—Ed.]

M. Pasteur's Inoculations.

M. Pasteur has had a run of ill-luck with his antirabic inoculations lately, as reported by the *Semaine Médicale*. On the 23rd of July last a man aged twenty-eight years died of rabies at the Hôtel Dieu of St Etienne. He had been bitten by a rabid cat on the 16th of June, and was treated at the Pasteur Institute at Paris from June 20th to July 7th. After having completed his treatment by the antirabic inoculations, the man returned to his work as a domestic at St. Etienne, where the first symptoms of rabies manifested themselves on the 18th of July, that is thirty-two days after he had been bitten. On August 8th a young man aged twenty-two years died at the Necker Hospital at Paris, from convulsive rabies. He had been bitten by a mad dog on the 13th July and was treated at the Pasteur Institute from the 16th. Death from rabies took place twenty-six days after the bite. On the 20th of June last a child eighteen months old died from rabies at Gentilly (Seine), thirty-six days after having been bitten by a rabid dog and inoculated at the Pasteur Institute. The child, who had been bitten on the 15th of May last, was first treated by the doctor of the place. Two days later—that is, the 17th—the inoculations were commenced and continued for twenty-four days. The first symptoms became manifest about the eighth day after the completion of the treatment by the antirabic inoculations. A child at Marseilles aged thirty-one months, who was bitten on May 9th last by a rabid dog, and treated at the Pasteur Institute from May 14th to June 9th, died from rabies on June 23rd—fourteen days after the end of the treatment. An inhabitant of Chatenay, aged forty-four years, who was bitten on March 25th last by a rabid cat, and treated at the Pasteur Institute from March 26th to April 12th, died from rabies on July 30th. Madame Sarazin, of Saint-Maurice, in Switzerland, aged forty-four years, who was bitten on July 1st last by a mad dog, and treated at the Pasteur Institute from the 4th of the same month, died from rabies at the Hôpital Broussais in Paris on August 4th. To this list may be added the name of a workman at Chatenay, called Labeaume, who died from convulsive rabies at the beginning of the month of July last at the Hospital of Versailles, but who had not undergone the treatment regularly. Bitten on May 29th, 1888, by a rabid cat, Labeaume was put under treatment on the 30th of the same month, but he left the Pasteur Institute on June 2nd without signifying his intention to do so, and only returned on the 14th. At that time he experienced severe pains in the bitten arm, accompanied with headache. The inoculations were resumed and continued till June 29th.

Experimental Inoculation—A Suggestion.

Dr. Gamaleia, the Polish doctor who wants to inoculate mankind for cholera, has replied to the offer of M. Paul Foucher to be the first victim. He says :—Your offer causes me great joy, because it shows the confidence you have in the genius of M. Pasteur." But why Dr. Gamaleia and M. Pasteur do not inoculate each other, to show mutual confidence, the purveyor of cholera microbes does not explain.—*The Echo.*

The Effects Produced by Earthquakes upon the Lower Animals.

In the last issue of the "Transactions of the Seismological Society of Japan," Professer Milne, the well-known student of volcanic phenomena, discusses the effects of earthquakes on animals. The records of most great earthquakes refer to the consternation of dogs, horses, cattle, and other domestic animals. Fish also are frequently affected. In the London earthquake of 1749, roach and other fish in a canal showed evident signs of confusion and fright; and sometime after an earthquake fish rise to the surface dead and dying. During the Tokio earthquake of 1880, cats inside a house ran about trying to escape, foxes barked, and horses tried to kick down the boards confining them to their stables. There can, therefore, be no doubt that animals know something unusual and terrifying is taking place. More interesting than these are the observations showing that animals are agitated just before an earthquake. Ponies have been known to prance about their stalls, pheasants to scream, and frogs to cease croaking suddenly a little time before a shock, as if aware of its coming. The Japanese say that moles show their agitation by burrowing. Geese, pigs, and dogs appear more sensitive in this respect than other animals. After the great Calabrian earthquake it is said that the neighing of a horse, the braying of an ass, or the cackle of a goose was sufficient to cause the inhabitants to fly from their houses in expectation of a shock. Many birds are said to show their uneasiness before an earthquake by hiding their heads under their wings and behaving in an unusual manner. At the time of the Calabrian shock little fish like sand eels *(cirricelli)*, which are usually buried in the sand, came to the top and were caught in multitudes. In South America certain quadrupeds, such as dogs, cats, and jerboas, are believed by the people to give warning of coming danger by their restlessness; sometimes immense flocks of sea birds fly inland before an earthquake, as if alarmed by the commencement of some sub-oceanic disturbance. Before the shock of 1835 in Chili, all the dogs are said to have escaped from the city of Talcahuano. The explanation offered by Professor Milne of this apparent prescience is that some animals are sensitive to the small tremors which precede nearly all earthquakes. He has himself felt them some seconds before the actual earthquake came. The alarm of intelligent animals would then be the result of their own experience, which has taught them that small tremors are premonitory of movements more alarming. Signs of alarm days before an outbreak are probably accidental; but sometimes in volcanic districts gases have emanated from the ground prior to earthquakes and have poisoned animals. In one case large numbers of fish were killed in this way in the Tiber, and at Follonica on the morning of April 6, 1874, "the streets and roads were covered with dead rats and mice. In fact, it seemed as if it had rained rats. The only explanation of the phenomena was that these animals had been destroyed by emanations of carbon dioxide."—*Times.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Communications for the Editor to be addressed 20 Fulham Road, S.W.

Original articles and reports should be written on one side only of the paper, and authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers, not necessarily for publication.

We shall be obliged by early intelligence of all matters worth bringing under the notice of the profession, and thankful to any friends who may send us cuttings from local papers, containing facts of interest.

ROARING.

SIR,

It is very extraordinary that neither Dr. Fleming nor Mr. Rayment give the profession any further information as to the condition of the horses operated on for *roaring* last June, and for which such brilliant success was claimed. If these horses are really cured of roaring, undoubtedly Dr. Fleming and Mr. Rayment are to be congratulated on their performance. But if the animals are not cured, it appears that these gentlemen have no right to pose as the heroes of the greatest achievement we have recently had in Veterinary Surgery.

It appeared to most people capable of judging, a very questionable proceeding for the chief veterinary surgeon to the army to advance such confident assertions on the strength of two operations which had only been done a fortnight, a period which he must have known was no test whatever, and these assertions were not made to the members of his own profession, but to the general public, who are not in a position to form a true estimate of the subject.

Having taken this unusual and questionable step, it is doubly incumbent on Dr. Fleming to afford every facility to those who wish to ascertain the real value of his operations. If they are not successful, he ought to be candid enough to make the only reparation in his power by frankly acknowledging his mistake.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GLASGOW.—12th Sept., 1888. R. D. NICOL.

SCIENTIFIC VETERINARY APPOINTMENTS.

SIR,

I read in the Record of September 8th, with great pleasure and I hope some profit, Mr. Faulkner's paper on Veterinary Education. "Scholarships and Endowments are the means to the end, and ought not to be unattainable," says the essayist in reference to the methods of training members of our profession for such places as Examiners or Professors. Now, Sir, how many of such exist? The Royal Veterinary College some years ago, established an Hospital Surgeoncy as a reward of merit, and as a means of furthering Scientific work. It was, I believe, to be held for two years. Where is this post of encouragement? Apparently appropriated by the College as an office for one of the regular teaching staff.

Again, there is another position in which a Scientific training may be had. The Brown Institution requires a veterinary surgeon, and so long as the intentions of the founder are not treated with undisguised contempt—must have one. This appointment is held by a London practitioner sharing in the work of a very large practice.

Surely this is not either to the welfare of the institution or to the interests of the veterinary profession.

Certainly, if these are our only two possibilities of Scientific training, we may wait long for the advent of Specialists. I do not know, but I have been told, that we may have some hope from the Army Veterinary Department. Messrs. Smith, Steel, Rayment, Nunn, and Rutherford are quoted as names of promise—names of men doing good work. I only hope we may have more of them.

Yours obediently,

"MICROCOCCUS."

OUR REGISTER.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

On page 121 of the Register of the R.C.V.S. for 1887, we read—"F ‖ ‡ Collins, James, *retired*, Principal V. S. to the Army—(not to be addressed) . . . Dec. 18, 1867, London; 1852 Edin."

I am not aware whether the expression "not to be addressed" is the recognized method of announcement in professional registers, that the individual to whom it refers has retired from the profession, but it reads in our register uncommonly like, his "cutting" the profession. If it means that the retired P.V.S. wishes, in common parlance, to "forget that he is a veterinary surgeon," why does not he withdraw his name from the register, which will effectually ensure that he will "not be addressed." The phrase reads most unpleasantly from a Fellow R.C.V.S. (original), a former Member of Council, R.C.V.S., a former Examiner R.C.V.S., a late Governor R.V.C., and a retired P.V.S.; and I would submit that the offensive phrase be not admitted into the next issue of the Register, and if Mr. Collins objects to that, the profession will, doubtless, not refuse to permit him to withdraw his name from the Register. If the retired P.V.S. wishes to "cut" all connection with the profession, he ought in consistency to no longer sign himself, retired P.V.S. (if he still does so), or permit himself to be called "Colonel," and he should resign the social position and retiring allowance he has earned as a V.S. He cannot remove from the Veterinary Department of the Army the onus of the 1878 Warrant, which he was instrumental in introducing! No member of the Profession can envy him his present well-earned retirement, or would wish to penetrate its obscurity, but we ought not retain a slur on the profession in the Register!

Yours truly,

"CENSOR."

A CORRECTION.

DEAR SIR,

Your issue of 15th Sept., in the report of Mr. Faulkner's reply to the discussion on his paper read before the National Veterinary Association, represents me as having said "that the nominator of an examiner should know something about him," and as this is so far from being a correct version of what I did say I ask your favour to rectify it.

Mr. Faulkner's paper contains the following: "Previous to the day of election the general body of the council are not aware who will be proposed, and in some instances, when a name is submitted, a considerable number are without knowledge of the individual or his qualifications for the position, yet vote for or against, although they may never have heard of him before."

Replying to that statement, what I said—in effect at least—was, "That I thought it very improbable that any person would be nominated for the office of examiner, about whom the council had never heard; and also that I thought it an unwarrantable reflection on their judgment to say that members of the council would vote either 'pro or con' in regard to anyone of whom they had no knowledge whatever."

Undoubtedly Mr. Faulkner misunderstood me at the time, and as I was obliged to leave the meeting before his reply, I was in ignorance of the matter until I saw your report.

Yours faithfully,

KIRKHAM. G. GARTSIDE MAYOR, F.R.C.V.S.

COLLEGE TUITION.

SIR,

As a student I think a few words on the tuition of a student would not be out of place, seeing X Yshed's remarks upon examinations.

As a matter of course a student's chances of success at the various examinations held at Red Lion Square are supposed to depend mainly upon what he is taught at College, although I am afraid that if a man solely depends upon what he hears at lectures his chance of satisfying the examiners is a very remote one.

In the first place, the teaching is not far enough advanced. As an instance of this, at the last Christmas examination in the various subjects for first year's men, (A) candidates were questioned upon things they had never heard of, or told it would be unnecessary to work up, consequently were "stopped." And secondly, far more time is wasted than is necessary, taking for example that each lecture is supposed to last an hour, if you take ten minutes or a quarter of an hour off through your "chief" being late, then about the same time to call the roll. and finally finishing about ten minutes before the termination of the hour, you will readily see that one cannot have much time to take advantage of the knowledge (?) imparted to him.

Then there is another thing which must no doubt have some effect upon your lecturer, namely, the allowing of men connected with the college—and especially those who hold the office of lecturer—to act as a "coach," for it naturally seems that one is not taught all he should be, but by paying a few pounds extra he may obtain what was not told him in class, and besides, when a man has paid his college fees he expects to be taught enough without again paying. You may say at once that a "coach" is only for those men who have not time enough to work after college hours, or who are too lazy. But there is not the slightest doubt more harm is done than good, as a man cares nothing providing he obtains his diploma, then we wonder when he goes into practice why instead of a help to the profession he turns out a "duffer."

Trusting you will find room for insertion in your interesting paper.

I remain, yours faithfully,

A. Q.

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All communications respecting spaces for ADVERTISEMENTS *to be addressed to*

MESSRS. TINCKLER & McNAUGHT, 57 Charing Cross, London, S.W.

All communications to ensure insertion the same week should be delivered at the office not later than Wednesday morning